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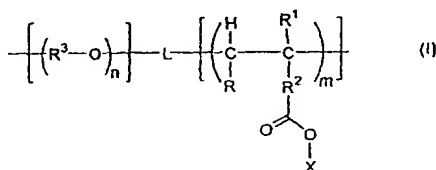
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(54) Title: BLOCK COPOLYMERS



(57) Abstract: Novel block copolymers are described, together with the production therefrom of physiologically soluble polymer therapeutics. The block copolymers have the general formula (I) wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈ alkyl, C₂-C₁₈ alkenyl, C₇-C₁₈ aralkyl, C₇-C₁₈ alkaryl, C₆-C₁₈ aryl, carboxylic acid, C₂-C₁₈ alkoxy carbonyl, C²-C₁₈ alkaninocarbonyl, or any one of C₁-C₁₈ alkyl, C₂-C₁₈ alkenyl, C₇-C₁₈ aralkyl, C₇-C₁₈ alkaryl, C₆-C₁₈ aryl, C₂-C₁₈ alkoxy carbonyl and C₂-C₁₈ alkaninocarbonyl substituted with a heteroatom within, or attached to, the carbon backbone; R¹ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C₁-C₆ alkyl groups; R² is a linking group; X is an electron withdrawing group; R³ is selected from the group consisting of C₁-C₁₈ alkylene, C₂-C₁₈ alkenylene, C₇-C₁₈ aralkylene, C₇-C₁₈ alarylene and C₆-C₁₈ arylylene; L is a divalent linker joining the blocks; and m and n are each an integer of greater than 1.